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Poisoned stick likely caused dog's death

BURNABY Police believe a poisoned stick was responsible for the death of a dog over the weekend.

A man who walked his two dogs in the park beside Kensington Sports Complex in Burnaby Friday night reported one of them becoming very sick later that evening.

He immediately took the dog to the vet but it died shortly after. The vet suspected it had been poisoned.

RCMP spokeswoman Cpl. Alexandra Mulvihill advised dog owners who frequent this park to be on the lookout for any suspicious activity.

"It is also requested that if any other dog owners have had their dog become sick or die shortly after being at the park that they call Burnaby RCMP," she said in a statement.

Burnaby RCMP seized a number of other sticks from the park and the dog is being tested to reveal the exact cause of death.

ANDREA WOO
/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Celebrity p18

Ellen ties knot with Portia

Green page 8

Germans get energy smart

Please recycle

Beijing **Pure gold**

SHAUN BEST/REUTERS

Victoria's Malcolm Howard, centre, and teammates celebrate their gold medal win in the men's eight rowing competition yesterday at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. More coverage, pages 10, 11

Woman dies rafting

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

For the second time in less than a week, a woman has drowned in the Chilliwack River.

The 23-year-old Victoria woman, who police haven't publicly identified, was on a rafting trip guided by Chilliwack River Rafting Adventures (CRRA) on Saturday afternoon.

"We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the young woman who perished in this tragic accident," Russ Brown, president of CRRA, said in a release yesterday. "Words can never convey the deep sorrow we feel."

At 5 p.m. the woman's raft hit a rock and flipped in the Tamihi rapids, nine kilometres upstream of the City of Chilliwack. She was swept down river and became wedged in an underwater rock crevice.

The guided raft was one of two navigating the rapids. A certified river guide manned each and a safety kayak was also present. Brown said six passengers were in one raft and seven others were in the other.

Immediately after the woman's raft capsized, the guides began pulling passengers from the water. Others swam to shore, but the woman could not be found.

RCMP and search and rescue volunteers located her about two hours later and removed her body from the water at about 7 p.m.

Const. Lea-Anne Dunlop said the woman was wearing proper safety gear when the incident occurred.

The drowning is the second in the Chilliwack River in less than a week.

On Wednesday evening, a 17-year-old girl drowned after her inflatable boat overturned and she became trapped under a log. Brothers David, 30, and Clayton, 25, Kellum were tubing nearby.

The brothers attempted to free the girl but were forced to give up because of exhaustion.

Operations temporarily stopped

- Chilliwack River Rafting Adventures has temporarily suspended operations out of respect to the victim and to allow its staff to cope with the impact of the fatality.

ShareYourViews
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Bomb scare at Williams Lake Airport

EVACUATION A bomb scare forced the evacuation of a Central Cariboo airport yesterday morning.

Security at Williams Lake Airport, a small city-run airport located 14 kilometres north of Williams Lake, discovered a suspicious package at 11 a.m. No one was injured, but the airport was evacuated as a safety precaution.

An explosive disposal unit was being brought in from the Lower Mainland, said RCMP Const. Annie Linteau.

The airport is home to a pair of smaller domestic airlines Central Mountain Air and Pacific Coastal Airlines.

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SFU band world's best
SFU's famed pipe band won its fifth World Pipe Band Championships Saturday in Scotland. The competition is that country's largest cultural event and draws 221 bands and 40,000 spectators. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Ship to raise pirate's treasure

A Kerrisdale pirate ship tree house will be auctioned off in October to raise money for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vancouver. In July, the tree house was ordered to be taken down by a provincial court judge.

SOURCE: CBC.CA/BC

News in brief

POLITICS University of B.C. professor Michael Byers was acclaimed yesterday as the NDP candidate for Vancouver-Centre in an upcoming federal election. Liberal MP Hedy Fry had held the downtown riding since 1993, when she defeated then-Prime Minister Kim Campbell.

ENVIRONMENT Vancouver was the first stop yesterday in a week-long Federation of Canadian Municipalities sustainability mission. More than 30 municipal leaders from across Canada are in the Lower Mainland to view world-recognized green developments, including Southeast False Creek and the 2010 Olympic Village.

METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch how our Olympic athletes broke their medal drought in a big way, and check out video from the Wreck Beach Bare Buns Run
Read an expanded version of our Urban Foodie's latest review, and Guidy Mamann's column on immigration issues
Play online Crosswords!

Lotteries

Friday, Aug. 15
Lotto Super 7 2, 8, 21, 22, 33, 37 & 40 Bonus 11
Extra 38, 42, 61, 68

Saturday, Aug. 16
Lotto 6/49 12, 16, 19, 32, 42 & 49 Bonus 3
BC 49 13, 16, 22, 26, 35 & 41 Bonus 19
Extra 11, 42, 82, 85

These results are not official.

'Some pretty cool stuff'

Freestyle riders entertain awestruck Gastown fans

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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There are ups and downs to being a professional freestyle motocross rider, says Paul Smith, who earns his living launching himself off giant ramps and somehow managing to land on the other side — alive.

"We get to do some pretty cool stuff," said Smith, 41, who yesterday held an audience of several thousand people captive in Gastown while defying gravity.

He has jumped for 6.5 million people in 18 countries in his 11-year career, but said the price he pays is the occasional injury, including a broken pelvis and ribs, and a bruised heart.

"It's a constant evolution because when you learn a new trick, there's always a step to (upgrade), a higher level. Nobody can do every trick."

Smith, along with Jeff Banks and Ben Milot, were showing off for a packed crowd of spectators at the 4th annual Gastown Motorcycle Show N' Shine yesterday.

While the crowd of fans lining up for autographs was made up in large part of rapt little boys, there was a contingent of equally awestruck girls.

"My brothers have been riding since they were little and they taught me," said Gen Cabana, 17, of Burnaby, who came to the show with two girlfriends.

"They're an inspiration," said her friend, Alanna McLellan, 18. "They make it look so easy."

Show N' Shine

- There were more than 250 motorcycles on display, including choppers, cruisers, vintage bikes, sport bikes, touring bikes and scooters.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Professional freestyle motocross rider Jeff Banks takes to the skies yesterday at the 4th annual Gastown Motorcycle Show N' Shine.

Burnaby shooting victim identified

FATAL Police have identified the man who was shot dead in a Burnaby highrise that was the scene of a deadly stabbing last month.

Adrian Gilpin, 35, of Burnaby, was shot dead at the Maple Place Towers in North Burnaby around early Saturday morning.

RCMP Cp. Alexandra Mulvihill said it's too early to know if it was a targeted shooting.

Police were called to the highrise around 3 a.m. after neighbours heard gunshots.

"Members of the Burnaby RCMP found one male inside an apartment building suffering from gunshots wounds," said Mulvihill.

"Emergency Health Services attended to the scene, however the male was deceased."

No arrests have been made.

Last month, a 39-year-old woman allegedly stabbed to death her 53-year-old husband in an adjacent tower.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

JOSH DEVINS/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Roz Young, 26, paddles for cancer research at the third annual Kayak For A Cure at Jericho Beach yesterday.

Kayak For A Cure taken on 'a life of its own'

CANCER In the three years since Kayak For A Cure launched on the shores of Jericho Beach, its participation rate, and earnings for the Canadian Cancer Society, has more than tripled.

The success of the homegrown charity event, which took place for the third time yesterday, has taken its founder by surprise.

Mark Starkey, 27, said what started as a small group of friends looking to do something good for the community has taken on a life of its own.

"We plan to plant the template in cities across Canada," he said.

Around 60 people participated in the event yesterday, bringing in $47,000 — more than double the amount raised last year.

Two other fundraisers were held this month in Victoria and in Columbus, Ohio.

"Everyone's got a story," said Starkey. "People don't sign up because of my grandmother, and that's what carries the event."

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

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Arrest made in stolen boat case

The rental boat stolen from Sewell's Marina on Tuesday has been recovered. Coquitlam RCMP arrested a 43-year-old Surrey man after he was spotted operating the boat erratically on the Fraser River in Port Coquitlam. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TODAY'S *question*

What do you think about Canada winning seven medals in two days at the Summer Olympics?

CHERYL VIENNEAU
23
Vancouver
barista
It's pretty awesome. I think we'll kick some ass in the winter Olympics but I'm not too sure about the summer ones.

GREG DYCK
23
Vancouver
student
It's about time. It was getting kind of embarrassing.

NIKKI PETERSON
33
Vancouver
receptionist
That's just awesome. It was bound to happen. It'd be nice if we had more support for the rests of the sports.

ANDREA WOO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

CONTACT US:

E-mail your letters to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Bare buns boot it for cause

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

Beach balls weren't the only things bouncing on Wreck Beach yesterday.

Just under 100 people took part in the 12th Annual 5 km Wreck Beach Bare Buns Run/Walk, doing laps under the hot sun to promote healthiness and enjoyment of social naturism.

Participant Max Chernenkoff said it was a great way to soak up the rays and get some exercise.

"A couple years ago I wore men's runners," he said. "This year I'm barefoot and totally connected with nature."

Jack Kiefert, who has raced for about two years, came up from Tacoma, Wash., with his brother for the event.

"After a few minutes, you don't even realize that you're naked," said Kiefert, who donned a colourful wig along with his brother.

Proceeds from the event went to the Wreck Beach Preservation Society, which works to prevent development and other intrusions along the 7.8-km clothing-optional beach.

Kevin McGuinnis of Ravensdale, Wash., won the race, clocking in at 14 minutes and 35 seconds.

ANDREA WOO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

A couple watches the 12th Annual Bare Buns Run/Walk at Wreck Beach yesterday.

OnlineVideos
metronews.ca

News in brief

STABBING A Vancouver man in his 30s was stabbed in his hand and back after a fight with his roommate Saturday. A man in his 40s is facing possible charges of assault with a weapon in relation to the incident.

STRUCK A cyclist is dead after being hit by a car in the 6600-block of 124 Street in Surrey yesterday morning. The driver, a woman in her 40s, remained at the scene and suffered no injuries.

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Young offender sentenced to life
A man who fatally stabbed Evan Grykuliak during his 17th birthday party to allegedly improve his dangerous reputation with his street gang was sentenced to life in prison with not chance of parole for seven years Friday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Crippling payout?

A class-action lawsuit brought against Loto-Quebec by a group of pathological gamblers is heading to trial after several years of legal red tape. The suit could cost Loto-Quebec up to $500-million in compensation. The plaintiffs claim Loto-Quebec did not disclose the potential addictive effects of video gaming.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Poll: Tories lag in enviro, health

OTTAWA The federal government is underperforming on health care and climate change, two of Canadians' top three priorities, according to a Privy Council Office survey conducted this summer. It could have implications for any fall election campaign.

But the Conservatives score better on their handling of the economy — an issue the Tories hopes to use against the Liberals in an election.

Anticipation of a fall campaign has spiked since Harper said last week he would have to decide "in the next little while" whether Parliament's work can continue or if it should be cut short with an election call.

If a vote is called, Canadians will face a choice between the Liberal environment plan — the centrepiece of Dion's platform — and Harper's position that he has kept a steady hand on the economy.

In the poll of 4,000 Canadians, 48 per cent of respondents said the Tories had done a poor job "fixing climate change" and 43 per cent said they have done a poor job on health care.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

economy

- the poll stresses that economic concerns loom large in the minds of Canadians

Ottawa **Carnival of Cultures**

ETIENNE RANGER/FOR METRO OTTAWA

The Churun Meru Venezuelan Dancers performed at the Nepean Point Astrolab amphitheater overlooking Parliament Hill and other Ottawa landmarks during the weekend's Carnival of Cultures.

Seeking a doomed ship

ARCTIC Appealing to national sovereignty and the spirit of exploration, Canada launched a search on Friday for the ships of the doomed 1845 Franklin expedition that was seeking the fabled Northwest Passage.

The British ships HMS Erebus and HMS Terror were trapped in the Arctic ice as Sir John Franklin sought to chart a northern route from the Atlantic to the Pacific, to reach the Far East.

He and his 128 crew died and rescue expeditions never found his ships.

"Canada will now embark on its own journey ... (on) the search for these two vessels, which has the allure of an Indiana Jones mystery," Environment Minister John Baird said.

Using oral history from the native Inuit to provide clues where to look, a team is searching an area south of King William Island in Nunavut. REUTERS

News in brief

HEALTH Nova Scotians suffering from metastatic colorectal cancer will now have the drug Avastin to turn to. The provincial government's decision to fund the drug was tabled in the spring budget after months of criticism.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

MAD COW Officials confirmed Canada's 14th case of mad cow disease in a six-year-old cow from Alberta. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said no part of the carcass entered the human-food or animal-feed system. It's not yet known how it was infected. REUTERS

1918 flu pandemic survivors still immune

Survivors of the 1918 flu pandemic, now aged 91 to 101, still have antibodies that protect them against the highly deadly virus, researchers reported. The team's findings could help them create better ways to fight newly emerged and spreading viruses. REUTERS

World

Mideast satellite launch

Iran has successfully launched Safir, a dummy satellite into orbit on a homegrown rocket for the first time yesterday, proving its capacity to launch satellites, Reza Taghizadeh, head of Iran's aerospace body, told state television. REUTERS

News in brief

PAKISTAN Embattled Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, who is facing impeachment, has been a "good ally," said U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, but she refused to say whether he would receive U.S. asylum if he stepped down. Musharraf has insisted he will not resign.

RELIGION Hundreds of thousands of Shi'ite pilgrims streamed home from Iraq's shrine city of Kerbala yesterday at the end of an annual holy rite that passed without the factional violence that marred it last year. But a major suicide bomb attack on U.S.-backed neighbourhood guards in a Sunni Arab area of northern Baghdad served as a reminder of entrenched violence in the country.

BLACKWATER U.S. prosecutors have sent letters to six Blackwater security guards involved in a Baghdad shooting last year in a move that could lead to groundbreaking criminal indictments, The Washington Post reported yesterday. REUTERS

Russia to pull out

Russia announced it would begin withdrawing forces from Georgia today after a war that dealt a humiliating blow to the Black Sea state.

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili called for international monitoring of the pullout. "I think the world should watch," he told a news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Tbilisi. Merkel said the world would be watching for Russia to withdraw quickly under the terms of a six-point peace plan brokered by France.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to withdraw troops quickly. "The word of the Russian president needs to be upheld by his forces or people are going to begin to wonder if Russia can be trusted," she told NBC.

Moscow has given no firm deadline for its complete withdrawal.

The 10-day confrontation killed around 200 Georgians, dealt a crushing blow to the country's military, damaged its economy, disrupted road and rail links and drew criticism in the West of Saakashvili's handling of the crisis. REUTERS

VASILY FEDOSENKO/REUTERS

Russian military vehicles are parked facing in the direction of Tskhinvali at Roksky pass on the Russian side of the Russia-South Ossetia border yesterday.

Pressure is on for Obama and McCain to pick VPs

WASHINGTON Several potential vice-presidential candidates are mum on their chances of being picked, though time is running out for presumptive presidential candidates Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain to decide.

Both parties will begin national conventions within the next two weeks.

Possible Republican candidates include Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and primary challenger Mitt Romney.

Democrats could count on former South Dakota Sen. Tom Daschle, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh and Govs. Tim Kaine of Virginia and Bill Richardson of New Mexico. REUTERS

Israel to free 200 prisoners

JERUSALEM Israel confirmed yesterday it would release 200 of some 11,000 jailed Palestinians in the hope of shoring up support for President Mahmoud Abbas and the peace talks he is conducting with Israel.

"The idea is to strengthen the process of dialogue… (and) to strengthen the peace process," said Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's spokesperson.

Abbas's prime minister Salam Fayyad said the gesture was "not enough" and demanded that Olmert free all the thousands of jailed Palestinians. REUTERS

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Mrs. Fields to file bittersweet bankruptcy
Cookie retailer Mrs. Fields Famous Brands, which has some 1,200 franchises, is running out of dough and plans to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. It was started in 1977 by Debbi Fields, a young mother who made cookies from scratch. REUTERS

Business

Bridge blast hits oil exports

Azerbaijan suspended oil exports through ports in western Georgia yesterday after an explosion damaged a key rail bridge. Georgia accused Russian troops of blowing up the railway bridge west of the capital Tbilisi earlier in the day. Russia strongly denied any involvement. REUTERS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

CHEVRON Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa plans to meet with Chevron Corp. officials and lawyers for 30,000 jungle residents who are suing the U.S. oil giant for $16 billion over environmental damages between 1972 to 1992.

SLOTS British Airways CEO Willie Walsh vowed the airline will not surrender runway slots at Heathrow, which have changed hands for $37.45 million US, to land its alliance with American Airlines, the Sunday Times reported. REUTERS

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Iraq may drop oil contracts

FOOTHOLD Iraq is likely to abandon plans to sign up to $3 billion US in short-term oil contracts, a U.S. diplomat said, putting in doubt deals that would give foreign oil firms their first major foothold in the country for decades.

Iraq has been negotiating six no-bid technical support contracts with international oil firms, worth about $500 million each, aimed at quickly boosting production by 500,000 barrels a day.

The deals involve Royal Dutch Shell; Shell with BHP Billiton; BP; Exxon Mobil; Chevron with Total; and a consortium of smaller firms Anadarko, Vitol and Dome. REUTERS

Insurers raise stink

Aging sewers make water damage top risk

The Canadian insurance industry is seeking ways to stem a rising tide of claims for water damage to homes that it says results partly from aging sewer systems that badly need replacement.

Some of its response involves raising the rates paid by customers who live in riskier areas. But insurers also want towns and cities to upgrade sewer and surface-water systems to deal with freak storms.

"The average age of a sewer system in Canada is about 60 to 65 years, and the useful life of that type of system is about 75 years," said Robert Tremblay, a director at the Insurance Bureau of Canada, the home- and auto-insurance industry group.

"The average age of a sewer system in Canada is about 60 to 65 years, and the useful life of that type of system is about 75 years."
Robert Tremblay

Higher claims for messy sewer back-up problems have made water-related damage the No. 1 type of home insurance claim, above fire, theft or vandalism.

"Historically, fire represented more than half our losses," ING Canada President and chief executive Charles Brindamour said.

"This has reversed in the last few years and the bulk of losses are now water-related losses, primarily sewer backup," he said. REUTERS

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If 1 million people switched to locally produced food for a year, we could eliminate up to 625,000 tons of CO_2, according to The Live Earth: Global Warming Survival Handbook by David de Rothschild. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

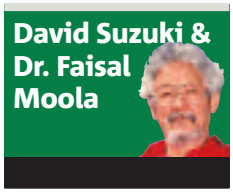
Bottle power

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a 100-watt incandescent lightbulb for four hours, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green And Make A Difference by Tanya Ha.

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Germany cleaning up energy

ScienceMatters



In 2005, I attended an international conference in Montreal on the Kyoto Protocol. There, I heard a speech by German parliamentarian Hermann Scheer. I knew nothing about him, but as I listened to him talk about how Germany had become the world's leading exporter of wind technology and was on its way to phasing out its nuclear reactors, I was blown away. Here was a politician who articulated the obvious realities about energy: fossil fuels are finite and will run out, the biggest sources of oil are often in the most politically volatile regions, nuclear energy is also nonrenewable and bequeaths a legacy of radioactive waste for thousands of generations, and the sun provides free, clean energy in abundance to all nations.

I have since come to know this canny, fearless politician who has stayed true to his beliefs for four decades and has become so popular he doesn't have to play party politics. The problem of energy, he told me recently in Berlin, is not technological; it is political in the broadest sense. Once the decision is made to exploit a particular form of energy all kinds of expertise and infrastructure are built up.

Germany has become the world's leading exporter of wind technology and is on its way to phasing out its nuclear reactors.

After the OPEC oil embargo in 1973, Dr. Scheer, who has a doctorate in economics, realized that energy was a major weakness in Germany's industrial future. The country didn't have oil reserves or large rivers for hydroelectric projects and so was generating electricity with nuclear and coal plants. He realized that this made Germany vulnerable to the vagaries of geopolitics and that these were not sustainable forms of energy.

Dr. Scheer was able to introduce an innovative plan, a feed-in tariff, which commits the country to accept all renewable energy (primarily wind and solar) onto the grid and to guarantee a premium price for that energy for 20 years. That provided a huge incentive for individuals or co-ops to build turbines and install solar panels because banks would not hesitate to provide loans given those conditions.

As a recent article in the Globe and Mail noted, the feed-in tariff, beyond giving Germany more than 20,000 megawatts of clean energy, has also created new economic opportunities. The renewable-energy sector now "generates about $240-billion in annual revenues and employs a quarter-million Germans. Germany's wind industry created 8,000 jobs in 2007 alone, and one recent study suggested that the renewable sector could provide more work than the auto industry (currently the nation's biggest employer) by 2020."

Many people have been calling for a switch to renewable energy. Nobel laureate and former U.S. vice-president Al Gore has called on the U.S. to switch to 100 per cent renewable energy within 10 years. In response, we've heard the same old tune from a chorus of stuck-in-the-oil naysayers. Someone should introduce them to Herman Scheer.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

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Moo for methane
One millions cows burp about 220 tons of methane per day, according to The Live Earth: Global Warming Survival Handbook by David de Rothschild. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beyond bottled water

Water is critical to life on Earth and our own health. It helps transport nutrients in our bodies, regulates body temperature and keeps our organs, tissues and cells healthy, not to mention, helping to flush the body of toxins.

With such an important role in maintaining our body's systems and functions, it's clearly important to keep ourselves well hydrated with fresh clean water, especially during the summer months.

Many Canadians look to bottled water to achieve this, and it is becoming a big strain on the environment.

An estimated 88 per cent of all those plastic water bottles never make it to the recycling facility, and end up in landfills.

Clean water is important for everyone, but there are better ways of getting it than buying bottle after bottle of water.

One option that many environmentally conscious Canadians are looking at is filtration systems.

There are many different types on the market, from custom built-in systems that clean water before it comes out of the tap, to water filtration pitchers that go in your fridge.

A water filtration pitcher is the most cost effective, and you do not have to worry about installing new appliances or hardware. However, until now, the pitcher has not been as effective in removing contaminants as the built-in systems.

"The Clear2O Home Water Filtration system features the same solid carbon block filter that built in systems use, and is capable of removing 53 contaminants," said Connie Duque, brand manager at Applica Consumer Products.

"That's five times more than other pitchers on the market."

By using water filtration systems, Canadians can have clean, great tasting water while doing our part to protect our environment.

Stop throwing away plastic bottles and your money. Instead, invest in a filtration system and enjoy clean fresh water all year long. NEWS CANADA

filter concern

- One common concern with all filtration systems is knowing when to replace the filter. Several companies have designed filters with indicators that show when they need replacement — a handy option to ensure you always have fresh water.

An estimated 88 per cent of plastic water bottles do not make it to recycling, creating a burden on the environment.

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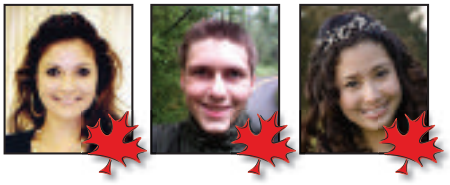
Visit www.topteenofcanada.com for more info and to vote for the People's Choice!



Events open to the public, admission by donation at the door.
All proceeds to Cops for Cancer, Canadian Cancer Society.

Thursday, August 21; 6 p.m.
Contestant Speeches and Showcase Presentations

Saturday, August 23; 6 p.m. - Made-for-TV Filming of the Grand Finale production of Top Teen of Canada 2008

Location: Chief Sepass Theatre at The Langley Fine Arts School - 9096 Trattle Street, Fort Langley, BC

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vancouver aquarium

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1. Canadian Sailing Expedition travel package (approximate retail value of CDN $10,000) will be awarded to a randomly selected winner. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. Open to Canadian residents over age of majority. Skill-testing question required. No purchase necessary. Contest ends 11:59:59 p.m. Pacific Time on August 31, 2008. Full Rules are available at www.vanaqua.org/cleanup ©1986 Panda symbol WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature (also known as World Wildlife Fund) ® "WWF" is a WWF Registered Trademark

Field hockey
Ken Pereira scored Canada's lone goal in a 1-1 tie against Britain yesterday at the Beijing Olympics. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beijing Games

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Canadian team members poses after winning the gold medal in the men's eight final yesterday at the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park at the Beijing Olympic Games.

What a haul, eh?

Our athletes nab seven medals to fire up Beijing Games

YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

Canada's MLB franchise, I'm told, has been trying to push key players — Vernon Wells, B.J. Ryan and John McDonald — through waivers for the purposes of trading them but, honestly, I don't feel like discussing the Blue Jays today.

No, after spending most of last week dissing Canada's Olympic squad, the only topic worthy of discussion in this York Report is the success our athletes suddenly are enjoying in Beijing.

What a weekend, eh? I guess our Olympians don't stink, after all. With seven medals over the weekend, and presumably more to come from Ontario kayaker Adam van Koeverden and others, the redness in our faces has vanished. We've earned the right to gloat, at least a bit.

We can row, row, row our boats not-so-gently down the stream, and we have four medals to prove it, including gold from the overpowering men's eight crew. We have a 19-year-old swimmer, Ryan Cochrane of Victoria, B.C., who ended our eight-year drought in the pool with a bronze medal. We have women wrestlers — two of them — you don't want to mess with because B.C.'s Carol Huynh owns a gold medal and Ontarian Tonya Verbeek has a bronze.

We also have a professor, B.C.'s Daniel K.N. Johnson, with goathorns because he assured us after his scientific research that Canada would leave Beijing without gold.

And we can breathe sighs of relief because we actually have more hardware than Cameroon, Togo and Tajikistan.

Hallelujah.

And double hallelujah for the Canadian men's eight rowing squad, which won not only gold in Beijing but also redemption for finishing fifth at the 2004 Athens Olympics. The eight thoroughly dominated in Chinese waters with wire-to-wire supremacy.

"I could see early (in the race) we'd win," said coxswain Brian Price of Belleville, Ont. "We pushed hard every stroke. It was the culmination of four years of intense work. We were so determined to make amends for Athens, and we did."

They did, in fact, convincingly.

Not that they ended the raging debate about Olympic funding in Canada. Shawn Saraga, president of www.freemyteam.com., approached Canadian Olympic Foundation chief David Armour about co-ordinating a $10-million fundraising initiative for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

"It is heart-breaking to see other countries financially support their athletes," Saraga said, "while our athletes are primarily self-supported."

On the weekend, however, Canada managed to climb the Olympic ladder respectably. Combined with U.S. swimming sensation Michael Phelps and his unfathomable eight gold medals, the Jamaican sprinters and — cross your fingers — no steroid issues, and — whaddya know? — Beijing is turning out to be quite memorable, after all.

Who needs the Blue Jays?

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

OnlineVideos
metronews.ca

Canadians deliver some hardware

- Men's eights (Kevin Light, Sidney, B.C.; Ben Rutledge, Cranbrook, B.C.; Andrew Byrnes, Toronto; Jake Wetzel, Saskatoon; Malcolm Howard, Victoria; Dominic Seiterle, Victoria; Adam Kreek, London, Ont.; Kyle Hamilton, Richmond, B.C.; and Brian Price, Belleville, Ont.) raced to a gold medal.
- Carol Huynh of Hazelton, B.C., won gold in women's 48-kg wrestling by defeating Chiharo Ichu of Japan.
- Dave Calder of Victoria, and Scott Frandsen of Kelowna, B.C., claimed silver medal in men's double sculls.
- Men's lightweight fours (Iain Brambell, Brentwood Bay, B.C.; Jon Beare, Toronto; Mike Lewis, Victoria; and Liam Parsons, Thunder Bay, Ont.) notched a bronze.
- Melanie Kok of St, Catharines, Ont., and Tracy Cameron of Shubenacadie, N.S., earned bronze in women's lightweight double sculls.
- Ryan Cochrane of Victoria, took bronze in men's 1,500-metre freestyle swimming.
- Tonya Verbeek of Beamsville, Ont., beat Ida-Theres Nerell of Sweden to win a bronze medal in women's 55-kg wrestling.

ISSEI KATO/REUTERS

Carol Huynh of Hazelton, B.C., shows off the gold medal she won in women's 48-kg freestyle wrestling on Saturday.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Swimmer Ryan Cochrane of Victoria shows off the bronze medal he won yesterday in the men's 1,500-metre freestyle.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Melanie Kok of St. Catherines, Ont., and Tracy Cameron of Shubenacadie, N.S., show off their hardware after rowing to bronze in the women's lightweight double sculls yesterday.

SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES

Canada's lightweight men's four team, from left, Liam Parsons of Thunder Bay, Ont., Mike Lewis of Victoria, Jon Beare of Toronto and Iain Brambell of Victoria celebrate winning bronze yesterday.

Equestrian
Eric Lamaze of Schomberg, Ont., riding Hickstead, is tied for first place after Day 2 of the individual jumping qualifier. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beijing Games

Hartley retires with her head held high

Local diver just misses out on a bronze

Blythe Hartley has been on the national diving team for a dozen years. That's almost half of her lifetime. And now she's done.

She went out emotional, both happy and tearful, with no medal in the three-metre springboard, but a career-finest result in the individual event that left just about everybody smiling for her.

Thought, afterwards, about her late brother Strachan, who succumbed to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma last summer at age 30 and how proud he would have been, ready with a high-five and a hug.

"He gave great hugs. It felt like he never wanted to let go."

As she was so reluctant to let go of him, almost turning away from the sport in her grief, then finding inspiration in the life her brother had led and the valiant way he struggled to prolong it.

The North Vancouver resident finished fourth yesterday. Bronze looked like a real possibility until China's second-best female diver, Wu Minxia, uncorked a couple of doozies in the final two rounds, high-scoring efforts that pulled her up on to the podium.

Compatriot and defending Olympic champion Guo Jingjing did exactly as expected: A second gold medal at these Games.

Russia's Julia Pakhalina won silver.

Hartley feels she acquitted herself well in her final Olympic effort.

"I really couldn't ask for more. I'm thrilled with how it went. Winning a medal is the ultimate goal. But I knew coming in how strong the field was and how amazing those top three divers are. I just wanted to go out there and achieve my personal goal, which was to do my best, and that's exactly what happened.

"I have no regrets."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ADAM PRETTY/GETTY IMAGES

Blythe Hartley of North Vancouver, a bronze medallist in Athens in 2004, failed to reach the podium in the women's 3-metre springboard final yesterday in Beijing.

Sports in brief

ATHLETICS Tyler Christopher of Chilliwack, B.C., has failed to qualify for the semifinals in the 400 metres. The 24-year-old Christopher, touted as a strong medal contender, raced while suffering from the flu and finished a disappointing fifth in his heat and 28th overall.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Medal count

Rank	Nation				Total
#1	U.S.	19	21	25	65
#2	China	35	13	13	61
#3	Russia	7	12	12	31
#4	Australia	8	10	11	29
#5	Britain	11	6	8	25
#6	France	4	9	12	25
#7	South Korea	8	9	5	22
#8	Germany	9	6	6	21
#9	Japan	8	5	7	20
#10	Italy	6	6	6	18
#11	Ukraine	5	3	6	14
#17	Canada	2	1	4	7

(Count at the end of Day 9)

Nadal completes impressive hat trick

TENNIS Rafael Nadal powered to a 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 victory over Chile's Fernando Gonzalez in the Olympic men's singles final yesterday to nail a hat trick of major titles.

Nadal

He becomes the first Spanish tennis player to win a gold medal at an Olympic tournament.

"Everything feels different," said Nadal, who has won the French Open and Wimbledon titles this year and will overtake Roger Federer as the world No. 1 today.

"I've won this for a lot of people, not just me. In tennis, grand slams are a little bit more important but for a sportsman the Olympic Games are more important than anything."

Serbia's Novak Djokovic completed the podium after beating American James Blake for the bronze.

Elena Dementieva beat fellow Russian Dinara Safina 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 to the women's singles crown, while the Williams sisters took the women's doubles title 6-2, 6-0 over Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain.

Federer and Stanislas Wawrinka beat Swedes Simon Aspelin and Thomas Johansson 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 to win the men's doubles final on Saturday. REUTERS

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Mets bolster bullpen with trade

The New York Mets acquired relief pitcher Luis Ayala from the Washington Nationals yesterday for a player to be named later, which is expected to be infielder Anderson Hernandez. Ayala, 30, has struggled to a 1-8 record with a 5.77 earned run average this season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Pettersson wins in N.C.

Sweden's Carl Pettersson, in his adopted hometown of Greensboro, N.C.,; won his first PGA Tour event in two years at the Wyndham Championship. Pettersson finished at 21 under par, beating Scott McCarron by two strokes. He earns $918,000 US for the win. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Hull rules the day in Ottawa

Australian LPGA veteran claims CN Canadian Women's Open title

Five-year LPGA Tour veteran Katherine Hull overcame a six-stroke deficit at Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club to win the 2008 CN Canadian Women's Open yesterday.

Hull carded a final-round three-under-par 69 that included four birdies and a single bogey to finish 11-under for the tournament to edge her closest competitors — runner-up Se Ri Pak at 10-under and third-place Yani Tseng at nine-under

With the win, Hull also punched her ticket to the season-ending ADT Championship, as the $2.25 million US purse made the CN Canadian Women's Open the 13th and final winner event for LPGA Playoffs 2008.

"I'm shocked that this has actually happened to me, but obviously this is a dream come true. It's just something that all of us out here dream about as kids, and to finally have it come to reality is just amazing. I can't put it into words right now," Hull told the RCGA. "This is probably not going to sink in until tonight or even tomorrow."

"It's just something that all of us out here dream about as kids, and to finally have it come to reality is just amazing. I can't put it into words right now."
Katherine Hull

Tseng began the day with a four-stroke lead over 54-hole runner-up Pak, and a six-stroke cushion over world No. 1 Lorena Ochoa — who finished in a tie for fouth at seven-under — and Hull.

However, Hull began her charge by making birdie on the third hole while playing in the group ahead of Tseng and Pak, while Tseng made her first of four bogeys on the front nine on the same hole.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Australia's Katherine Hull won the Canadian Women's Open golf tournament at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club yesterday.

Agent denies Sundin set to join Rangers

NHL Mats Sundin has not rejected Toronto for the bright lights of Broadway, according to his agent.

Not yet anyway.

While there's still no guarantee the long-time Leafs captain will even return to the NHL next season, if he does, J.P. Barry says six teams remain in contention for his services, including the Leafs.

Barry yesterday refuted a New York Post story that said Sundin had narrowed the field and his No. 1 preference is to play for the New York Rangers.

In the latest chapter in a silly summer of Sundin speculation — the Great Wait of '08 — the Post stated that Sundin had "declared his interest in playing for the Rangers this season" and that Barry "has been in constant communication with Rangers front-office personnel this week."

The Post went on to report that it is hearing Sundin has no interest in returning to the Maple Leafs. And his desire to play for Vancouver or Montreal is negligible.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

TENNIS The Vancouver Canadians beat the Boise Hawks yesterday, scoring the winning run in the bottom of the ninth. The Canadians won 4-3 on a walkoff line drive by shortstop Dustin Coleman.

TENNIS Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro beat Viktor Troicki of Serbia 6-3, 6-3 to win the ATP event in Washington yesterday and claim his fourth successive title.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	75	48	.610	—
Boston	71	53	.573	4½
N.Y. Yankees	66	58	.532	9½
Toronto	64	60	.516	11½
Baltimore	60	63	.488	15

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	70	53	.569	—
Minnesota	70	53	.569	—
Detroit	60	64	.484	10½
Cleveland	56	67	.455	14
Kansas City	55	69	.444	15½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	76	46	.623	—
Texas	62	63	.496	15½
Oakland	56	67	.455	20½
Seattle	46	77	.374	30½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
N.Y. Mets	68	56	.548	—
Philadelphia	66	58	.532	2
Florida	64	61	.512	4½
Atlanta	56	68	.452	12
Washington	44	81	.352	24½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	76	48	.613	—
Milwaukee	71	54	.568	5½
St. Louis	70	57	.551	7½
Houston	63	61	.508	13
Pittsburgh	55	69	.444	21
Cincinnati	55	70	.440	21½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	64	60	.516	—
L.A. Dodgers	64	60	.516	—
Colorado	57	69	.452	8
San Francisco	52	71	.423	11½
San Diego	48	76	.387	16

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto 15 Boston 4
Baltimore 16 Detroit 8
Chicago White Sox 13 Oakland 1
Cleveland 4 L.A. Angels 3
Minnesota 11 Seattle 8
N.Y. Yankees 15 Kansas City 6
Tampa Bay 7 Texas 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 9 Florida 2
Cincinnati 7 St. Louis 3
N.Y. Mets 4 Pittsburgh 0
San Francisco 3 Atlanta 1
Colorado 7 Washington 2
Houston 3 Arizona 0
L.A. Dodgers 7 Milwaukee 5
Philadelphia 2 San Diego 1

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston at Baltimore, 4:05
L.A. Angels at Tampa Bay, 4:10
Detroit at Texas, 5:05
Oakland at Minnesota, 5:10
Seattle at Chicago White Sox, 5:11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

N.Y. Mets at Pittsburgh, 9:35
San Francisco at Atlanta, 1:35
Houston at Milwaukee, 5:05

CFL

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	6	1	0	12
Edmonton	4	3	0	8
Calgary	4	3	0	8
B.C.	4	3	0	8

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	5	3	0	10
Toronto	3	5	0	6
Hamilton	2	6	0	4
Winnipeg	2	6	0	4

WEEK 8

FRIDAY'S RESULT

Montreal 32 Toronto 14

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS MEN'S TEAM:

LAST NIGHT'S RESULT

Puerto Rico 0 **VANCOUVER** 0

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS:

YESTERDAY'S RESULT

VANCOUVER 4 Boise 3

TONIGHT'S GAME

Boise at **VANCOUVER**, 7:05

Jays' offence heats up against Sox

Blue Jays 15 Red Sox 4

MLB Blowout doesn't quite cover it. It was more like a typhoon whipping through Fenway Park. The Jays jumped on the Red Sox early and often yesterday afternoon in a 15-4 demolition.

Yesterday, the Jays brought a 4-1 record into the finale of this road swing. After one inning against Boston ace Josh Beckett, they were already up 6-0.

By the fourth, Beckett was a distant memory, having absorbed eight earned runs in his worst outing of the year. The offensive heroes were already too numerous to mention. By the end, Toronto set several season highs on offence and notched one new club record for doubles (10).

The Red Sox got one back to start the fourth, a solo home run by Kevin Youkilis. The Red Sox fans on hand, who'd seen a ten-run first-inning lead erased only a week ago, cheered like they thought they were back in it. They weren't. With the bases loaded and one out, Jason Varitek grounded into a double play, effectively ending the game.

After four, still trailing by eight runs, the Red Sox waved a white flag. They subbed out Youkilis and Varitek.

But Toronto stuck with its starters.

"You don't know when to stop running, to stop scoring runs (here)," Gaston said.

Those starters continued to rack up tallies. Alex Rios had five hits on the day, including four doubles, tying a club record. Adam Lind contributed three hits, a home run and four RBIs. John McDonald, who continues to thrive in a starter's role, was 3-for-5 with three RBIs. Vernon Wells, Lyle Overbay and Marco Scutaro all had three hits.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ADAM HUNGER/REUTERS

Toronto Blue Jays shortstop John McDonald, left, and Vernon Wells celebrate after defeating the Red Sox in Boston yesterday. The Blue Jays crushed Boston 15-4.

New Brunswick contributing $44M for new med school
Over the next five years, the New Brunswick government will contribute nearly $44 million to a new anglophone medical education program, slated to begin in 2010. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Drinking games

The University of Florida is joining a host of American universities in developing policy prohibiting excessive alcohol consumption, both on- and off-campus. The proposed regulations specifically ban keg standing and drinking games, such as beer pong.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

From cars to humans

ANDREW KING
for Metro Canada

When John R. North was growing up in England, his life's passion was fuelled by fast cars, the engines that drove them and understanding how they worked. The self-confessed "black sheep" of the family would never have guessed that managing a race car with some friends would lead to a career managing a company specializing in the mechanics of the human body.

"My parents were both linguists," laughed North, the president and CEO of Inimex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, a Vancouver-based company that specializes in developing Innate Defense Regulators (IDRs); drugs that will help strengthen people's immune systems to protect them from antibiotic-resistant infections.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

John R. North, president and CEO of Inimex Pharmaceuticals Inc.

"One reason why you don't take antibiotics as a preventative, except in very special cases, is because using antibiotics like that tends to encourage the development of antibiotic-resistant organisms," said North.

North, who holds a doctorate in immunology, was lured from England in 1998 to pursue his career in Canada, which led him to start a consulting business and an opportunity to work with Inimex when the company was just beginning to create their drug development plans.

However, North fondly recollected a time when he was set on developing ways to maintain cars instead of people.

"I think I owe this to my grandfather, who was not very highly educated but was a very good mechanic," he said. "I spent my youth playing with cars, fixing cars, just wanting to be a mechanic and my high school and parents were shocked at that plan."

After giving into his parent's pressure to study science at university before pursuing a career in engineering, he found himself in need of an elective course.

"I, like everybody, had to take a number of different courses and one of the courses was an extremely well-taught course on biology and it was just riveting, I found it absolutely fascinating, and so I carried on in that field."

North said that cars will always be there for him as a retirement option, but he's not ready to say goodbye to his scientific career just yet.

"I'm now 61, so I've got a few more years left. If I'm really lucky I might be able to see this through to the point where it's licensed by a significant pharmaceutical company and very clearly is being developed for the world stage. That would be a wonderful achievement."

Healthy help

- North said of his practice that IDRs could help people, such as the elderly and those in need of high-risk operations, without the need for antibiotics.

OddJobs

Diane Peters

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Murray takes to the skies

Comedian and actor Bill Murray has completed a parachute jump with the U.S. Army Golden Knights team in Chicago. Murray, whose jump kicked off the 50th Chicago Air and Water Show, landed safely on a lakefront beach. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Divine inspiration

Singer chronicles 50 years of popular music on new album

To hear the retro bent of Divine Brown's new album is to imagine the singer steeped in vintage Motown and Stax during it's making.

"I was listening to Kanye on my way home from the studio," Brown reveals in an interview. "I did the songs by feel.

"If I wanted to write something that had, say, a '50s style to it — my dad used to listen to a lot of Skeeter Davis — I remember the feeling that I got when I listened to that stuff, so I'd try to write based on the emotion of what I'd felt.

"I didn't have the Skeeter Davis records on hand to work from, so it was feeling and then writing based on the feeling, not referencing something."

Add power of recall then to her other strengths — five-octave pipes, songwriter, bass player, actor — since The Love Chronicles, out tomorrow, cuts a swath through the last 50 years of popular music.

And lest one think Brown is following the throwback footsteps of Amy Winehouse, Duffy or Jully Black, she's quick to point out that her 2005 Juno-nominated self-titled debut was steeped in classic soul and R&B, and sold 70,000 copies on the strength of lead single Old Skool Love.

WARNER MUSIC CANADA PHOTO

Divine Brown's new album The Love Chonicles is out tomorrow.

"It's paying homage, but it happens naturally, because I have always been an artist who writes from where my roots lie," she said, running down a list of mentors that begins with Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell and Chaka Khan.

From the nasal bobby-soxer kiss-off Bebe to Donny Hathawayesque Sweet Surrender, Gap Band style '70's jam Jump Start and Mariah-worthy power ballad One More Chance, Brown meets her goal of capturing "the essence of the era that each song was a part of."

The Love Chronicles didn't begin as a concept album when she penned the doo-wop tinged lead single Lay It On The Line in 2006. Brown explained between post-workout bites at a Toronto restaurant.

"I go on inspiration, it can hit at any moment, like when I'm driving, or walking down the street and see a fine dude, and a melody just comes to me. It was a theme I saw happening once I started. It came to me write an album called Love Chronicles that would be a journey through different periods of music."

Brown, who cut her teeth in Toronto R&B and jazz fusion bands and musical theatre hits such as Ain't Misbehavin' and Rent, and admits to having Madonna's latest disc in heavy rotation, said selling records and maintaining artistic integrity is fine balance.

"As a singer, artist, businesswoman, I know there are certain songs you have to write that cater to the way radio programmers think in Canada, but I still have to be true to myself. It's all soul at the end of the day, because it's all coming from the soul."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Undead heroine's no role model

Breaking **Dawn**

Author: Stephenie Meyer
Publisher: Little, Brown
Price: $23.99 (Hardcover)

The final instalment of the hit fantasy series Twilight begins as a basic romance. Meek Bella and her undead soulmate seem destined to an eternity of syrupy patter. Their honeymoon quickly turns dark thanks to a bundle of bloodthirsty joy and a rival Vampire clan's looming attack.

The simple plot is propelled by Bella's transformation. Initially painfully insecure, she is challenged to self-actualize to protect her family. Although the message isn't unique, Meyers has drawn criticism for her conservative heroine. Unlike many modern ladies of teen lit, Bella embodies very traditional notions of womanhood. Regardless of how questionable a role model she may be, she becomes stronger for her journey. The real injustice to Meyers' audience may be that, 754 transformative pages later, Bella still doesn't realize it.

Ashley Petkovski/for Metro Canada

Book**Picks**

Letters to a **Bullied Girl**

Author: Olivia Gardner with Emily and Sarah Ruder
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: $16.25 (Trade paperback)

By age 15, Olivia Gardner endured seemingly endless bullying after suffering an epileptic seizure in public. After hearing her story, two sisters from San Francisco started "Olivia's Letters," a campaign to give the depressed teen hope.

The book collects some of the nearly 3,000 letters sent to Olivia, a portrait of peer-on-peer violence. The letters give voice to apologetic perpetrators, victims and those simply saying, "Stay strong." Not everyone writing to Olivia has found peace or reason for their actions.

Letters to a Bullied Girl doesn't aim to offer one single explanation for bullying, or how to get over the damage. What it does do is tell anyone seeking reassurance that they aren't alone.

Ashley Petkovski/for Metro Canada

more online

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Spears nominated for 3 MTV awards

Spears

AWARDS A year after her calamitous comeback performance at the MTV Video Music Awards, Britney Spears has garnered a third nomination for this year's show, but it remained unclear whether she would dare a repeat appearance.

MTV, which has been rolling out nominations in recent weeks, named Spears one of five candidates in the running for Video of the Year, for her single Piece of Me. **REUTERS**

In **brief**

MUSIC Rapper LL Cool J finished his last album under a contract with Def Jam Records that spanned two decades, but said it was not likely to be his final music project. "I have no reason to stop making music," he said in an interview. **REUTERS**

The Donald bails out Ed, in a way
Donald Trump plans to buy Ed McMahon's house and lease it back to him. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Exclusive album deal?

Negotiations underway for Guns N' Roses' latest release

SCOTT GRIES/GETTY IMAGES

Signs are emerging that the 14-years-in-the-making Chinese Democracy album by Axl Rose-led Guns N' Roses may be imminent.

The June leak of nine allegedly "mastered, finished" tracks from Guns N' Roses' long-delayed Chinese Democracy spurred a renewed round of speculation about whether the Axl Rose-led band will finally release the 14-years-in-the-making album.

But some concrete signs are finally emerging that the album's release could be imminent. That's because, according to sources, negotiations are under way for Chinese Democracy to come out as an exclusive at one of the big-box retailers — either Wal-Mart or Best Buy.

Negotiations are also ongoing for conventional record company distribution, another source said.

Guns N' Roses is now managed by Irving Azoff's Front Line Management, and Azoff is a well-known proponent of issuing albums exclusively through retailers. He released the Eagles' Long Road Out of Eden through Wal-Mart, much to the chagrin of other merchants.

It's unclear who initiated the Guns N' Roses exclusive negotiations — Front Line or Interscope, the band's label.

Representatives at Front Line and Interscope with knowledge of the situation couldn't be reached for comment. A Wal-Mart representative said the chain couldn't confirm this fall's exclusive album offerings. Best Buy representatives couldn't be reached for comment.

REUTERS

Box office

Following are the top 10 films at the North American box office for the weekend beginning Aug. 15, according to studio estimates:

1. **Tropic Thunder** $26 million US
2. **The Dark Knight** $16.8 million US
3. **Star Wars: The Clone Wars** $15.5 million
4. **Mirrors** $11.1 million
5. **Pineapple Express** $10 million
6. **The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** $8.6 million
7. **Mamma Mia!** $6.5 million
8. **The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2** $5.9 million
9. **Step Brothers** $5 million
10. **Vicky Cristina Barcelona** $3.7 million

REUTERS

Tropic Thunder No. 1 at box office

Farcical combat movie Tropic Thunder grossed $26 million US during its first weekend in U.S. and Canadian theatres.

Robert Downey Jr. scored his second No. 1 movie of the summer on Sunday as Hollywood spoof Tropic Thunder, which also stars Ben Stiller and Jack Black, ended the month-long reign of The Dark Knight atop the North American box office.

Tropic Thunder, a farcical combat movie within a comedy, grossed $26 million during its first weekend in U.S. and Canadian theatres, bringing its five-day estimated total from Wednesday's opening to $37 million, according to distributor Paramount Pictures.

Paramount, a unit of Viacom Inc, also released Downey's earlier No. 1 hit, the Marvel Studios production of superhero drama Iron Man, which grossed nearly $99 million its first weekend in May.

In Tropic Thunder, Downey, Stiller and Black star as a group of self-absorbed Hollywood actors caught up in a real-life battle with narco-terrorists while filming a war movie in Southeast Asia. The film was directed, co-written and co-produced by Stiller.

The blockbuster Batman sequel The Dark Knight slipped to No. 2 with $16.8 million in ticket sales in its fifth weekend of release but broke yet another commercial barrier along the way by becoming the second-highest-grossing film ever, according to box office tracking service Media By Numbers.

The Dark Knight, starring Christian Bale as Batman, has now amassed more than $471 million in domestic ticket sales.

REUTERS

In brief

MUSIC David Gilmour's upcoming concert album, Live in Gdansk, turned out a little different than the Pink Floyd guitarist planned. "The original intention was to make a live album out of the whole tour, selecting different songs from different nights," Gilmour told Billboard.com. "But so many of the best ones just seemed to come from that last night in Gdansk that in the end we thought, 'Oh, we'll just do the whole thing from Gdansk."

. REUTERS

Twilight moves into Potter's old date

FILM The highly anticipated adaptation of the Stephenie Meyer teen vampire romance novel Twilight has been moved from its Dec. 12 release date to Nov. 21, the date just vacated by Warner Bros.' Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.

Directed by Catherine Hardwicke, the Summit Entertainment film stars Kristen Stewart (Into the Wild) and Robert Pattinson, who played Cedric Diggory in two Harry Potter films.

"When Warner Bros. decided to move Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince to the summer of 2009, we saw a unique opportunity to slot in our film, which has been gaining tremendous awareness and momentum over the past several months," Summit's Rob Friedman said.

Striking a respectful tone, Friedman added, "We by no means are trying to fill the shoes of the incredible Potter franchise for 2008. Rather, we are just looking to bring the fans of Stephenie Meyer's incredible book series the film as soon as possible." REUTERS

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Graceland gathering

Several thousand Elvis Presley fans braved the rain in Memphis, Tenn., this weekend to join in the Candlelight Vigil, held annually on the anniversary of the singer's death. Elvis died on Aug. 16, 1977, at age 42. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Oprah to put in appearance at convention

Presidential rainmaker ups support for Obama

GETTY IMAGES

Talkshow queen Oprah Winfrey has confirmed she will support U.S. presidential hopeful Barack Obama on the night he is crowned America's Democratic party leader, according to *imdb.com*.

The TV icon has championed the Illinois senator throughout his campaign, speaking out on her daily chat show to urge people to vote for the politician.

Now the TV mogul is taking her support a step further by announcing she will attend Obama's official crowning at the end of the party's four-day convention in Denver, Colo., later this month.

A representative for Winfrey says, "She will be there."

Winfrey came under fire from female fans after she refused to back Hillary Clinton — the first woman to run for the U.S. presidency — before the politician lost the race to become the Democratic presidential candidate to her rival Obama earlier this year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

1,015,519

is the number of votes that Oprah Winfrey has won for Senator Barack Obama during his campaign to become the Democratic presidential candidate, according to calculations made this month by U.S. economists. **IMDB.COM**

Jerry Wexler, groundbreaking music exec who helped build Atlantic Records, dead at age 91

MUSIC Pioneering music executive Jerry Wexler, who helped build Atlantic Records into a rhythm and blues powerhouse in the 1950s and '60s with artists like Aretha Franklin and Ray Charles, died in Florida Friday at age 91, Atlantic Records said.

Along with the late Ahmet Ertegun, co-head of Atlantic, Wexler revolutionized R&B music as the consummate businessman behind an independent label that had few rivals in its day, spearheading Atlantic's move into "Southern soul" music. In addition to Charles and Franklin, Wexler helped develop such acts as Sam & Dave, Wilson Pickett, and Roberta Flack, often finding talent in places like Memphis, Tenn., Muscle Shoals, Ala., and Miami.

Jerry Wexler

But his influence was not limited to R&B. He helped guide the careers of many artists, including rockers Led Zeppelin, Dire Straits, the B-52's, Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson.

REUTERS

Starry send-off **Celebs remember Bernie Mac**

DAVID BANKS/GETTY IMAGES

From left, Juwan Howard, Rev. Jesse Jackson and Chris Rock were among the celebrities at a memorial service for Bernie Mac held on Saturday at the the House of Hope Church in Chicago.

Universal Pictures hits $1 billion US in ticket sales from overseas markets

FILM INDUSTRY Universal Pictures has announced that its 2008 movie ticket sales outside North America topped $1 billion US in August, reaching the benchmark earlier than ever in the year due to hits like Mamma Mia!, The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor and Wanted, which all passed the $100 million mark.

Reaching the billion-dollar tally on Aug. 13 puts the studio on track for its most successful year ever, said Universal, a unit of General Electric Co.

In 2007, Universal hit $1.034 billion for the entire year internationally.

Angelina Jolie in Wanted, among Universal's big hits of 2008.

For North America, which includes the United States and Canada, Universal grossed a record $1.099 billion in 2007. The studio's North American box office tally so far this year is about $805 million. Universal said it sees little signs of deceleration for the rest of the year, with upcoming films like the action-thriller Death Race, comedy Role Models and drama Changeling.

REUTERS

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Hip-hopper goes family-friendly

Hip-hop entrepreneur Percy Miller, a.k.a. Master P, is launching a family-friendly cable network, Better Black Television. The network will provide "positive content for a black and brown culture," according to a company statement. REUTERS

Leaked memo causes stir

IntelleVision

THIEVES LIKE US: Nikki Finke, the insider's insider on Hollywood's backroom dealings, leaked an ABC memo last week that allegedly has an executive vice-president advising anyone who wants a producer's credit on an ABC show to keep their eye out for foreign productions whose premise is vague enough to warrant ripping off without bothering to get permission or contracts.

Needless to say, it's set off a little bit of a brush fire in a town where that sort of thing can result in whole suburbs reduced to ashes.

"As I'm sure you're all aware, foreign formats have increased in popularity as the basis for U.S. television development and production," wrote one Howard M. Davine, in a June 24 memo sent to "term deal executive producers" working for the network. Davine went on to detail how buying foreign shows for U.S. adaptation seems like a sweet deal at first, but the inconvenient foreigners who came up with the original idea have this unfortunate tendency to want credit and, horrors, even payment for their work.

"If you or your own have come across an existing foreign TV project that you feel is something you'd like to explore adapting for the U.S. market," concluded Davine, "again, please first discuss the opportunity with (ABC Studios) Creative Affairs to give us the same opportunity to independently evaluate whether a licence of the underlying property is warranted."

In other words, don't say a thing until we've had a chance to run it by the lawyers, and if we can change a character or a setting here and there, we can call it our own damned idea, and no one will be the wiser.

ANDREW ECCLES/ABC

America Ferrera stars as Ugly Betty on ABC.

So the folks behind Ugly Betty would have done themselves a greater service if, after watching a few episodes of Yo Soy Betty La Fea, the Colombian telenovela, they brainstormed with a few of the folks in legal and, say, changed Betty to Dorothy, and made her, say, really tall and not homely.

Change the setting to a newspaper from a fashion house and it's Ferraris all around by the time the pilot airs.

The Europe-based Format Recognition and Protection Association — FRAPA for short — responded quickly, demanding ABC repudiate Davine's memo, and adding that they'd be fighting the network as well as Disney, its corporate parent, on behalf of the international producers it represents.

"If ABC and Disney refuse to repudiate the contents of the Davine memo," Fox Reality president and Frapa founder David Lyle told the Guardian, "then producers in both the U.S. and around the world might note their silence and help themselves to the 'underlying premise' of Hannah Montana."

Summer's almost over, people, and the knives are out again all over Hollywood.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Pretty erotic, eh?

Canada gets adult film channel

TELEVISION Canadians who may have become tired of being passed over as porn stars will have a new, homegrown outlet to showcase their erotic talents.

Federal regulators have granted Alberta-based Real Productions approval to launch a new digital pornography channel, which promises to serve up at least 50 per cent domestic content.

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) approved the Category 2 pay-television service, allowing Northern Peaks to become "Canada's first adult video channel offering significant Canadian adult content."

"There is a bit of tiredness in seeing all American stuff." Shaun Donnelly

"I think as Canadians, there is a bit of a tiredness in seeing all American stuff," Shaun Donnelly, president of Real Productions, said. "There is always that thrill for something that is local and you get the sense that these are people you can meet at the supermarket."

The CRTC only required 15 per cent Canadian content, but Northern Peaks agreed to provide "not less than 50 per cent of the broadcast day and not less than 50 per cent of the evening broadcast period to Canadian programming," according to the licence.

"We want to be Canada's adult channel and I think to do that, 15 per cent wouldn't cut it," Donnelly said.

Real Productions boasts the largest collection of Canadian adult-themed content in the country with more than 200 film titles and 75 television episodes in its library.

The regulator stipulated the licence will only be issued once Real Productions enters into an agreement with at least one licensed distributor.

Turkish TV journalists fired upon

TELEVISION Turkish television has released video of four journalists on assignment in Georgia being shot at.

The crew from NTV were in an area of Georgian-Russian fighting between the Georgian town of Gori and South Ossetia.

One of the reporters suffered head injuries, which were deemed to be not life-threatening.

As they came under fire, the journalists called out, "Are you all OK, guys? Calm down," before shouting, "Press! Press!"

Georgia initiated a military operation on Aug. 7 to try to seize control of South Ossetia.

But Russian forces responded swiftly and overmatched its neighbour's soldiers. Russian forces then moved deep into Georgia. BBC NEWS ONLINE

InteriorDivine

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 8/18/08	251	308	3 CBC	(3:00) XXIX Summer Olympics (Live) (CC)				XXIX Summer Olympics (Live) (CC)				
	255	358	6 CH	E! News	The Insider	Engagement	How I Met	12 Sexiest Vegas Jobs (CC)		X-Weighted "Jannette" (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	TMZ (N) (CC)	Degrassi	High School Musical: Picture		Canadian Idol Top five. (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	According-Jim	George Lopez	Happy Days	Growing Pains	Jeeves and Wooster (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Prison Break "Under & Out"		House "The Jerk" (CC)		Risk Takers Paramedics.		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Comedy Now Graham Clark.		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Reaper "Acid Queen" (CC)		Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Entourage	Entourage	Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	Gossip Girl (CC)		One Tree Hill "" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Old Christine	CSI: Miami (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Olympic Zone	XXIX Summer Olympics (CC)						
	602	568	19 W	How Clean	How Clean	How Clean	House	Confidential	Divine Design	How Clean	Kim	House
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	High School Musical: Picture		Bewitched ★★ (2005) Nicole Kidman, Will Ferrell. (CC)				News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	A Gathering of Old Men ★★★ (1987) Louis Gossett Jr.				Cheers (CC)	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (CC)		History Detectives (N) (CC)		Muhammad Ali: Miami		Out of Left
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Prison Break "Under & Out"		Sarah Connor Chronicles		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	28 PBS	Documenting the Face		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (CC)		One Tree Hill "" (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Seinfeld	Big Love (CC)		Late Late
news	502	390	23 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Radiation Roulette (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Air Racing From Detroit.		Saturday Night Poker		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(3:30) XXIX Summer Olympics		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Bud Greenspan: At the Heart of the Games (N) (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Departures (CC)		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		The Amazing Race 7 (Part 1 of 2) (CC)		
	410	403	54 SCR	WWE Monday Night Raw		(:15) Stump the Schwab		WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				Score Update
	417	406	55 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Pinks	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR		101 Cars	Car Crazy	Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol		Gol TV News		2010 Report		Gol TV News		Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	The Next Star "Own a Song"		Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Tom & Jerry	Tom and Jerry	6teen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Armitage III: Polymatrix (1997) Dan Woren		
	557	541	51 FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	The Bittles	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	3 KNO	Leading Edge	Wild at Heart	Stewart Marshall: Painter		Preventive Warriors (CC)			God in Gov.	Grizzly Conn.
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Karaoke Star "Calgary, AB"		Reba "As Is"	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24 MM	PunchMuch		MuchTopTens (CC)		Punk'd (CC)	Instant Star	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Spotlight
	600	564	29 H&G	Location, Location, Location		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Design U	Home to Stay	Property	House	Location, Loc.
	615	520	31 A&E	Paranormal	Paranormal	The Cleaner (CC)		Intervention "Chad" (CC)		Intervention In-Depth: Meth		Paranormal
	628	584	42 SPKE	Kung Fu Killer (2008) (Part 2 of 2) David Carradine. Premiere.				Kung Fu Killer (2008, Adventure) David Carradine, Lim Kay Tong.				
	521	560	44 TLC	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Take Home Nanny		Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Little People
	616	522	48 SHO	ReGenesis "Adrift" (CC)		Cold Squad (CC)		Trailer Park	Billable Hours	A Clockwork Orange ★★★★ (1971)		
	620	523	40 BVO	Bravonews	Delicate Battle	Law & Order "Passion" (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		Entourage	Bravonews	Shaping Art
	601	562	41 SLC	The Millionaire Matchmaker		End of Leash	Spoiled	Wedding SOS	Party Mamas	The Millionaire Matchmaker		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Dirty Jobs "Alpaca Shearer"		Daily Planet "Goes Green 1"		Really Big Things		Dirty Jobs "Alpaca Shearer"		MythBusters
	522	506	46 HIS	NCIS "Untouchable" (CC)		Dogfights "Supersonic" (CC)		Hostage ★★ (2005, Action) Bruce Willis, Kevin Pollak, Ben Foster. (CC)				
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Taken (CC) (DVS)		Stargate SG-1 "New Order"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise "Exile"		Star Trek Gen.
	294	650	47 TBS	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Surviving the Game ★★ (1994, Action) (PA) Ice-T. (CC)				Suspect Zero
	619	525	48 TROP	Deal or No Deal Canada		ET Canada	What	X-Weighted "Diane" (CC)		Are You Smarter		Deal-No Deal
	603	561	52 FN	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Good Eats	Perfection	Nightmares
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	MADtv Kathy Griffin. (CC)		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Stargate Atlantis (N) (CC)		Breakfast With Scot ★★ (2007) Premiere.		(:40) Stranger Than Fiction ★★★ (2006) Will Ferrell. (CC)				
	581	566	101 MTV	The Hills	After	MTV Live	Second Half	Super Sweet	Super Sweet	The Hills	After	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Divine Restor.	Recreat. Eden	Blue Buddha: The Journey		McLeod's Daughters		Prime Minister	Watchtower	Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	The Land	Daughters	Doctor Song Lian Sheng		Marimar		GMA Telesine Night		Patrol World

How Clean Is Your House?

This series clicks on two levels: as a guilty pleasure — veddy proper British ladies confronted with good old American filth are fun to watch — and as a how-to for the cleanliness-challenged. And who could use cleaning lessons more than a bunch of college guys? That's Aggie and Kim's mission in "A Frat-Tastic Disaster," as they show members of a fraternity how to transform their chapter house from grime scene to pristine. 10 PM on W

critics' corner

History Detectives

In this new episode, a book of trial transcripts inscribed by President John Adams to his son Charles brings Gwendolyn Wright to the Adamses' hometown, Quincy, Mass., to study family correspondence. Speaking of creepy, in another segment, Wes Cowan traces the origins of what appears to be a souvenir spoon from the hangings of 38 Sioux in Minnesota in 1862. 6, 9 PM on PBS

Charitable fellow
George Clooney is planning to invest more money in pal Brad Pitt's housing project in New Orleans, La. after sponsoring the building of two homes earlier this year. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

DeGeneres weds de Rossi

RELATIONSHIPS Talk show queen Ellen DeGeneres has wed her longtime girlfriend Portia de Rossi in an intimate ceremony, imdb.com reports.

DeGeneres, 50, and actress de Rossi, 35, exchanged rings at the private service in the backyard of their Beverly Hills home on Saturday.

Just 19 guests watched as the couple read aloud their handwritten vows, including DeGeneres's mother Betty and de Rossi's mother Margaret Rogers, who flew in from her native Australia for the occasion.

The couple's spokesperson tells People.com, "Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi were married tonight in an intimate ceremony at their home in Los Angeles."

Shortly after the wedding, DeGeneres taped an interview for her daytime talk show, which is where she first announced in May she would wed the Arrested Development star.

California lifted its ban on gay weddings in May after the state's Supreme Court ruled the ban on same-sex unions was unconstitutional.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES (3)

Stars donate to Ledger's daughter

LEGACY Johnny Depp, Jude Law and Colin Farrell have donated their fee for completing Heath Ledger's final film role to the late star's daughter, imdb.com reports.

The acting trio agreed to play versions of Ledger's character Tim in The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus following his death in January. And they decided to donate their fees to two-year-old Matilda — Ledger's daughter with actress Michelle Williams — because the star left an old will which did not include the little girl. Director Terry Gilliam has praised the actors for their generosity, saying: "That's extraordinary! And wonderful... and when you're part of that, you think, 'Ah, this is maybe why I went into the movies in the beginning.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

J. Love drops extra pounds

IMAGE Jennifer Love Hewitt has hit back at critics who ridiculed her for putting on weight — by showing off her new slim figure in a U.S. magazine, imdb.com reports. Love-Hewitt has had the last laugh after unflattering bikini photos of her were splashed across the web, by shedding 18 pounds through a rigorous exercise programme.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Mayer opens up about breakup

RELATIONSHIPS Though John Mayer and Jennifer Aniston were decidedly mum about their romance, the singer is opening up about their breakup, people.com reports. "There's no lying, there's no cheating, there's no nothing," Mayer told reporters Saturday about his split with Aniston. If anything, Mayer had only praise for his ex, saying: "Jennifer Aniston is the smartest, most sophisticated person I think I have ever met."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Duff engaged to NHLer?

RUMOUR Actress/singer Hilary Duff has sparked rumours she's taking her relationship with hockey star Mike Comrie to the next level, after she was snapped wearing a ring on her wedding finger, imdb.com reports.

The 20-year-old star was spotted leaving Hollywood's Il Sole restaurant with National Hockey League star Comrie on Friday night when she flashed her left hand to reveal a ring. And the shot has sent gossips into a spin — leading many to speculate over whether Duff and Comrie are engaged.

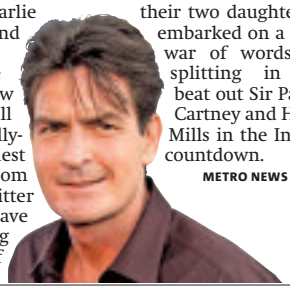
The couple has been dating for more than a year following Duff's split from Good Charlotte rocker Joel Madden.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Sheen, Richards top Nasty poll

DIVORCES Charlie Sheen and Denise Richards have topped a new magazine poll listing Hollywood's nastiest splits, imdb.com reports. The bitter exes, who have been battling over custody of their two daughters and embarked on a vicious war of words since splitting in 2005, beat out Sir Paul McCartney and Heather Mills in the In Touch countdown.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

George Clooney is big on buying into Brad Pitt's housing project in New Orleans. He buys houses that Pitt builds and gives them to people less fortunate. Listen, I just took a quick look at my hairline, bone structure, resume, bank account and wardrobe, and I can safely say I'm less fortunate than George Clooney. So, uh, do I qualify?

Jennifer Love-Hewitt has illustrated just how much power we who turn to the last page of the Metro have, and by that I'm guessing I mean every single one of you. She shed 18 pounds after being hurt by gossip reports ridiculing her for having become too heavy. We laughed, she shrank. Our next assignment, gentle readers, is to get Britney Spears to wear underwear on a regular basis.

I hope Hilary Duff and Mike Comrie stay together for a long time. Not because I care about either one of them, but because I like it when American publications identify people as "ice hockey players." Like, as opposed to what, tonsil hockey?

I can't believe the golden age of Anisyer is over. I think we are going to look back on the five or six weeks that Jen and John were together the way people of a certain generation look back on the presidency of John F. Kennedy, except that Kennedy wasn't such a preening douchebag, and Jackie didn't have a chin so big you could see it from space.

Eva remembers her roots

PEOPLE Eva Longoria Parker keeps in touch with the Wendy's manager who gave her her first job — because she loved working at the fast food restaurant, imdb.com reports.

The Desperate Housewives star worked at a Wendy's in her native Texas for six years and still has fond memories of her pre-fame job.

She tells Latina magazine, "I loved it. And I still love them. They are an amazing organization. I still keep in touch with my manager from when I was 14. They are just great to me."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winslet weirded out about love scene with Leo

RELATIONSHIPS Hollywood actress Kate Winslet felt awkward filming a sex scene with Leonardo DiCaprio for a forthcoming movie — because her husband Sam Mendes was directing, imdb.com reports.

The pair, who played lovers in 1997's Titanic, are working together on the upcoming film Revolutionary Road, and are again playing a couple. But is was during a love scene that Winslet suddenly felt uncomfortable having her husband directing the picture.

She says, "I just kept saying, 'This is too ... weird.' And Leo was like, 'Oh, get over it.' And I'm going, 'Yeah, a little reminder: You're my best friend. He's my husband. This is a bit weird.'

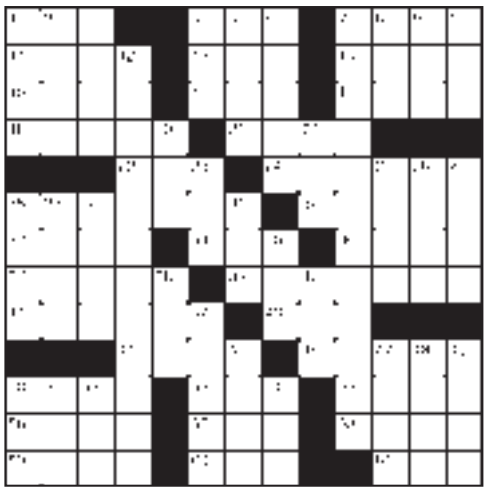
"I hadn't realized how much my chemistry with him since Titanic would still stick. It's great to discover we can just slip right into it, like muscle memory."

And Winslet confesses that she knew she would work with DiCaprio again, and orchestrated getting him onboard the movie.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spector's retrial will not be halted
An appeals court panel has rejected a request to halt the retrial of Phil Spector, the music producer accused of killing an actress in 2003. The decision from the 2nd District Court of Appeal came Friday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Easter entree
2 Cain's victim
3 Ballerina's frill
4 "Uh-huh"
5 Grand story
6 Cheesy chip
7 Slogans
8 Rage
9 Golf prop
10 Sweet potato
12 Decorative cushions
19 Underwear with underwire
21 "— Impossible"
23 Curved line
25 One of HOMES
26 Landlord's due
27 Collections
28 Farm measure
29 Curds' partner
30 Hardy cabbage
31 — and don'ts
35 "Charlotte's —"
38 U.S. spy org.
40 Police officer
42 Nerd
45 Rescue
47 Minuscule bit
48 Fishing-line attachment
49 Carriage
50 Firmament
51 Inseparable
52 Depressed
54 Crimson

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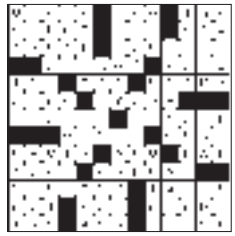
Crossword across

1 Long. crosser
4 Longing
7 "Sex and the —"
11 Touch
13 — tree (caught)
14 Vicinity
15 Illegal stimulant
16 Snapshot
17 Abound
18 Short publicity notice
20 Stylish
22 Man-mouse link
24 "Do unto — ..."
28 Clumsy
32 Binge
33 Fellow
34 Intimidate
36 Suggestion
37 Archaeologist's find
39 Mysteries
41 It may be covered in shadow
43 Feathery accessory
44 Legislations
46 Any of 150 in the Bible
50 Unaccompanied
53 Listening organ
55 Needle case
56 Be certain of
57 Night before
58 Angry
59 Evergreens
60 Foundation
61 Guys

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Agreements will reinforce a friendship. Everything you wish to accomplish will have support. An analytical co-worker won't destroy plans.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Good luck comes from other people's money. A love affair becomes distressing. Use your people skills to move forward.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Daydreams trigger a need to get away from it all. Used belongings come in handy. Lively emotions encourage conversations.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
There'll be mayhem when a man arrives. Walking is the remedy for wounded feelings. You're dissatisfied with a con man's lies.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Heed a relative's call to action. Be a calming influence in a heated argument. Balance your accounts with a miser.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Others will pay attention to you. Dissension caused by financial problems is blown out of proportion. Someone plays a mind game.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Rumours abound when someone is vexed. Nervousness about a story will backfire. Somebody else will be punished if you behave badly.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
Trying to hide evidence produces bad faith. Paranoia over gossip causes a wretched episode. A sick person whines about misery.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
Strange events make you feel disoriented. A humble guy is given a reward. An unemployed person makes a dumb mistake.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Game-playing produces feelings of inadequacy. Refuse to fight a losing battle. Change the pace of your love life.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A friendly soul will bring contentment. Dodge the desire to think for others. Find your dream job through an older friend.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Someone is given credit that belongs to another. Tell everyone to treat you with respect. Your optimism about changes is noted.

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Sudoku

						4	9	2
1		3			5		7	
	6			8		1		
9				1			6	
	8						3	
	3			9				7
		6		3			4	
	2		7			6		9
7	5	9						

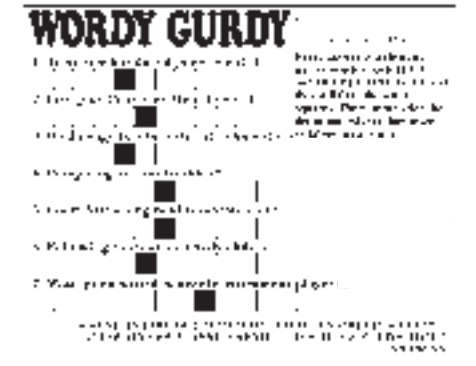
HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

9	1	3	5	2	7	6	8	4
2	4	7	6	1	8	5	3	9
5	6	8	3	9	4	1	2	7
6	8	9	2	3	1	7	4	5
1	5	2	7	4	6	3	9	8
7	3	4	9	8	5	2	1	6
3	2	5	8	6	9	4	7	1
8	7	1	4	5	3	9	6	2
4	9	6	1	7	2	8	5	3

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising
more games metronews.ca



Vancouver weather

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Mainly sunny. 22°	Rain. Low 15° 100%	Rain. 19°/14° 60%	Rain. 18°/14° 100%	Rain. 17°/14° 100%

Temperature
Normals
High: 21.5°
Low: 12.7°

Records
High: 27.2°/1965
Low: 6.7°/1973

Sunrise: 6:09 a.m.
Sunset: 8:22 p.m.
Moonset: 8:19 a.m.
Moonrise: 8:54 p.m.

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Brentwood Mall
Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metropolis/Metrotown
214B – 4501 North Rd.
204B – 3430 Brighton Ave.
111 – 3823 Henning Dr.
4711 Kingsway
7531 Market Crossing

Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
103 – 45300 Luckakuck Way
11 – 45905 Yale Rd.
7544B Vedder Rd.

Cloverdale
201 – 17725 64th Ave.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
2700B Barnet Hwy
22 – 2988 Glen Dr.
5 – 3000 Lougheed Hwy
101 – 3278 Westwood St.
2 – 901 Lougheed Hwy

Delta
Scottsdale Mall

Langley
Walnut Grove Mall
Willowbrook Mall
3 – 19638 Fraser Hwy
103 – 19700 Langley Bypass
19971 96 Ave.
C7 – 20202 66th Ave.
C104 – 20159 88th Ave.

Maple Ridge
Haney Place Mall
22661 Lougheed Hwy

Mission
318 – 32555 London Ave.
100 – 32670 Lougheed Hwy

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
127 – 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1392 Main St.
1748 Lonsdale Ave.

Pemberton
6 – 1366 Aster St.

Pitt Meadows
735 – 19800 Lougheed Hwy

Port Moody
202 Newport Dr.

RICHMOND

Aberdeen Centre
Admiralty Mall
Ironwood Mall
Lansdowne Mall
Parker Place Mall
Richmond Centre
115 – 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

Squamish
38116 2nd Ave.
39002 Discovery Way

Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Guildford Town Centre
10310A 152nd St.
135 – 12477 88th Ave.
201 – 13734 104 Ave.
403 – 15940 Fraser Hwy
2404 King George Hwy
10 – 3189 King George Hwy
108 – 7380 King George Hwy

Vancouver
Cathedral Place
Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
Terasen Centre
1092 Kingsway
1707 Robson St.
3 – 1855 Burrard St.
2163 West 4th Ave.
2748 Rupert St.
3343 West Broadway
10 – 3490 Kingsway
501 West Georgia St.
1 – 525 Seymour St.
551 Robson St.
5720 East Boulevard
150 – 625 Howe St.
105 – 950 West Broadway

West Vancouver
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Whistler
7007 Nesters Rd.

White Rock
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre

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C – 1815 Rogers Place
745 Notre Dame Dr.

Kelowna
Orchard Park Mall
1744 Springfield Rd.
116A – 1950 Harvey St.
2153 Springfield Rd.
2447 Hwy 97 North
44 – 3155 Lakeshore Rd.

Penticton
713 – 1301 Main St.
2000 Main St.
101 – 2601 Skaha Lake Rd.

Salmon Arm
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